where in private investors will be required to undertake specified capacity expansion projects in the short term and to meet internationally accepted performance criteria in the long term. All the aerobridges are functioning normally and there are two car parks, *viz.,* Premium car park next to Terminal Building and a General Car Park. Normally, it does not take more than two to three minutes to go out of the car park after parking. The trolleys arc maintained in a satisfactory working condition and maintenance of trolleys is carried out regularly. Floors of their terminals and city side verandah are smooth and there is no problem of pushing the trolleys. Bunching of flights during night, at Indian airports, is primarily due to night curfews imposed at airports in East and West of India which necessitates flights from such destinations to operate during night at Indian and other Asian Airports. Airport upgradation is an on-going process, and all efforts are made by AAI to maintain the services at the desired levels.

Difficulties faced by passengers at Chennai Airport

3642. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express, New Delhi, dated the 12th April, 2002 captioned 'At Chennai Airport, your long journey begins when you land';

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction to the observations made about the state of affairs at the airport and the difficulties being faced by the passengers; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken, if any, to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is space crunch at Chennai Airport due to bunching of flights which is primarily due to night curfews imposed at

airports in countries East and West of India which necessitates such flights to operate during night in India. However efforts are made to see that there is no confusion or chaos. There are 12 immigration counters for departure and 10 for arrival. There are three X-ray machines and screening of baggages is fast and docs not normally take more than 10 minutes in the queue for security check. Three of four conveyer belts have customs X-ray machines and the baggage is screened as per requirement. All areas including visitors area have ladies and gents toilets and location is prominently indicated in three languages. Adequate pictographs/sign boards are provided for guiding users. To improve the space shortage, Arrival hall has recently been extended. Some of the international arrivals and departures are also handled in domestic terminal. A new international departure complex is being constructed, which is likely to be commissioned by March, 2003 and thereafter the International Arrival Hall will be expanded to double the capacity with improved facilities. Airport upgradation being an on-going process, continuous efforts are made by the Airports Authority of India to improve the standard of services.

Traffic between India and UK

3643. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a speedy recovery in the traffic between India and the UK;

(b) if so, whether the British Airways is planning to spread its wings to Bangalore and Hyderabad and has decided to expand capacity in the Indian market in a big way;

(c) if so, what are the UK based airline connections at present;

(d) to what extent it will be more during the current financial year; and

(e) whether the British Airways is also consideration to hike fares?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) For every month since October, 2001 to February, 2002, month-wise traffic between India ans UK has